

Repressive labour practices in BALCO

986. SHRI MAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister for LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to the repressive labour practices of the group of BALCO, controlled by Vedanta Resources, the strength of employees in the company has now been reduced to 3000, from the previous strength of 7000;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this company is no longer employing local labour and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that most of the labour related provisions in the shareholders agreement between Government and the company have been flouted; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to cancel the deal and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) BALCO has informed that on date of disinvestment the company had 6436 employees. As on 1.3.07 it had 5261 employees. It has also informed that no employee of the company has been retrenched after disinvestments and that the Company continues to employ people domiciled in the State of Chhattisgarh who are given preference in fresh appointments, subject to eligibility. Employee's wards are also being appointed in significant numbers.

(c) and (d) The Company has stated that no provision of the Shareholder Agreement between the Government and the Company has been violated.

A research study entitled "Impact of Privatisation on Labour: A study of BALCO Disinvestment" has been brought out by Shri Babu P. Remesh, Associate Fellow at V.V. Giri National Labour Institute. The

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RAJYA SABHA

views expressed by the author in the research study are of the researcher concerned and do not necessarily represent the view of the Institute or of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Interest rate on EPF

987. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether differences have surfaced between Government and the representatives of the employees on the issue of interest rate on Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made to sort out the differences; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The issue of rate of interest on Employees' Provident Fund has been deliberated upon by the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund in its meetings wherein no consensus was reached on this issue.

(c) and (d) The issue is scheduled to be discussed again by the Central Board in its ensuing meeting to be held on 10th March, 2007.

Medical camps for beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh

988. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that no medical camps have been held in some districts for beedi workers over the last three years in Andhra Pradesh;